



February 23, 2001

SENATE BILL No. 229

DIGEST OF SB 229 (Updated February 21, 2001 2:07 PM - DI 98)

Citations Affected: IC 27-1.

Synopsis: Health insurance educator. Requires the department of insurance to establish the position of a health insurance educator to provide specified information to the public regarding health insurance. Prohibits the health insurance educator from recommending a particular company, insurance producer, or product.

Effective: July 1, 2001.

**Gard, Hershman, Lawson C,
Craycraft**

January 9, 2001, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.
February 22, 2001, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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SB 229—LS 7078/DI 97+



February 23, 2001

First Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2001)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2000 General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 229

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning insurance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 27-1-37 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2001]:

4 **Chapter 37. Health Insurance Educator**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "health benefit plan" means**
6 **coverage for health care services provided under:**

7 (1) **a policy of accident and sickness insurance (as defined in**
8 **IC 27-8-5-1);**

9 (2) **a contract with a health maintenance organization under**
10 **IC 27-13; or**

11 (3) **any other benefit program that provides payment,**
12 **reimbursement, or indemnification for the costs of health care**
13 **except:**

14 (A) **worker's compensation or similar insurance; or**

15 (B) **benefits provided under a certificate of exemption**
16 **issued by the worker's compensation board under**
17 **IC 22-3-2-5.**

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1 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "health benefit plan provider"**
 2 **means a person that provides coverage under a health benefit plan.**

3 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "health insurance educator"**
 4 **refers to the health insurance educator appointed under section 6**
 5 **of this chapter.**

6 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "position" means the position of**
 7 **health insurance educator established under section 5 of this**
 8 **chapter.**

9 **Sec. 5. The department shall establish the position of health**
 10 **insurance educator within the department.**

11 **Sec. 6. The commissioner shall appoint a health insurance**
 12 **educator who must possess expertise in the areas of health benefit**
 13 **plans, education, and advocacy.**

14 **Sec. 7. The department may contract with a nonprofit**
 15 **organization to provide the services required under this chapter.**

16 **Sec. 8. (a) The health insurance educator shall do the following:**

17 **(1) Assist health benefit plan consumers in making informed**
 18 **choices regarding health benefit plans by providing**
 19 **information about the following:**

20 **(A) The purchase, or enrollment in, a health benefit plan.**

21 **(B) The manner in which to resolve a dispute with a health**
 22 **benefit plan.**

23 **(C) The method of filing a claim under a health benefit**
 24 **plan.**

25 **(D) The availability of resources useful to a health benefit**
 26 **plan consumer.**

27 **(E) Consumer rights and responsibilities under a health**
 28 **benefit plan.**

29 **(F) Comparative information about health benefit plans to**
 30 **consumers and purchasers of health benefit plans.**

31 **(G) Other matters that may further a health benefit plan**
 32 **consumer's knowledge of health insurance benefit plans.**

33 **(2) Apply to obtain funds through federal grants and any**
 34 **other source. Any funds obtained shall be used to fulfill the**
 35 **purposes described in subdivision (1).**

36 **(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), the health insurance**
 37 **educator shall not recommend a particular company, insurance**
 38 **producer, or product.**

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SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senator Hershman be added as coauthor of Senate Bill 229.

GARD

SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senators Lawson C and Craycraft be added as coauthors of Senate Bill 229.

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 229, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 1, line 4, delete "Office of Health Care Ombudsman" and insert "**Health Insurance Educator**".

Page 1, line 6, delete "a".

Page 1, line 7, after "(1)" insert "a".

Page 1, line 8, delete "or".

Page 1, line 9, after "(2)" insert "a".

Page 1, line 10, delete "." and insert "; or".

Page 1, between lines 10 and 11, begin a new line block indented and insert:

"(3) any other benefit program that provides payment, reimbursement, or indemnification for the costs of health care except:

(A) worker's compensation or similar insurance; or

(B) benefits provided under a certificate of exemption issued by the worker's compensation board under IC 22-3-2-5."

Page 1, line 13, delete "'ombudsman'" and insert "'**health insurance educator**'".

Page 1, line 14, delete "care ombudsman" and insert "**insurance educator**".

Page 1, line 15, delete "'office'" and insert "'**position**'".

Page 1, line 15, after "the" delete "office" and insert "**position**".

Page 1, line 16, delete "care ombudsman" and insert "**insurance educator**".

Page 1, line 17, delete "an office" and insert "**the position**".

Page 1, line 17, delete "care" and insert "**insurance educator**".

Page 2, line 1, delete "ombudsman".

Page 2, line 1, delete "The office shall be".

Page 2, delete line 2.

Page 2, line 3, delete "care" and insert "**insurance educator**".

Page 2, line 4, delete "ombudsman".

Page 2, line 5, after "plans" insert ", **education**".

Page 2, line 8, after "Sec. 8." insert "**(a)**".

Page 2, line 8, delete "office" and insert "**health insurance educator**".



Page 2, line 9, delete "with" and insert **"in making informed choices regarding"**.

Page 2, line 10, delete "plan selection" and insert **"plans"**.

Page 2, line 10, delete "information, referral, and" and insert **"information about the following:**

(A) The purchase, or enrollment in, a health benefit plan.

(B) The manner in which to resolve a dispute with a health benefit plan.

(C) The method of filing a claim under a health benefit plan.

(D) The availability of resources useful to a health benefit plan consumer.

(E) Consumer rights and responsibilities under a health benefit plan.

(F) Comparative information about health benefit plans to consumers and purchasers of health benefit plans.

(G) Other matters that may further a health benefit plan consumer's knowledge of health insurance benefit plans.

(2) Apply to obtain funds through federal grants and any other source. Any funds obtained shall be used to fulfill the purposes described in subdivision (1).

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), the health insurance educator shall not recommend a particular company, insurance producer, or product."

Page 2, delete lines 11 through 42.

Delete page 3.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 229 as introduced.)

MILLER, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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